

REMARKS

Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully considering this application and for indicating that claims 30-32, 34 and 35 are allowable over the prior art of record (*see* Office Action dated April 7, 2006, page 7).

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge and consider the references listed in the IDS attached to the present communication.

Status

The Examiner has indicated that the Office Action dated April 7, 2006 is responsive to a communication filed January 30, 2006. Applicants respectfully submit that, in fact, the communication was filed January 19, 2006.

Disposition of Claims

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-26, 30-32, 34 and 35 are pending in the application. Applicants respectfully submit that, in fact, in view of the Response to Restriction Requirement filed January 19, 2006, claims 1-9, 11-26, 30-32, and 34-38 are pending in the application. By way of this reply, claims 1-9, 11-26, and 36-38 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 30-32, 34 and 35 remain pending in the application.

Drawings

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate whether the drawings filed on May 28, 2002 are acceptable.

Claim Amendments

By way of this reply, claims 1-9, 11-26, and 36-38 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 30-32, 34 and 35 remain, all of which have been indicated as being allowable by the Examiner (*see* Office Action dated April 7, 2006, page 7). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that these amendments place the application in condition for allowance.

Restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121

As an initial matter, as previously submitted in the Response to Restriction Requirement filed January 19, 2006, Applicants respectfully clarify the characterization of the two separate inventions listed by the Examiner. Further to a conversation with the Examiner on January 10, 2006, Applicants clarify that Invention I (*i.e.*, claims 1-26, 30-32, and 34-35) is directed to a system for network key management, and Invention II (*i.e.*, claims 27-29, and 33) is directed to retrieving values from a database. During the telephone conversation on January 10, 2006, the Examiner acknowledged mistakenly inverting the characterization of the two inventions. Applicants' response to this Action is based on the clarified characterization of the invention.


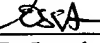
By way of this reply, Applicants affirm their election of Invention I (*i.e.*, claims 1-26, 30-32, and 34-35).

Conclusion

Applicants believe this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number: 09469/014001).

Dated: July 6, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By  # 0031
&  ALY DOSSA
Robert P. Lord
Registration No.: 46,479
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant

Attachments: Information Disclosure Statement